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THE *SURRY* WONDER:

GIVING

A true and ſtrange Relation of Mr. HENRY WATTS, Miniſter of Rygate, in the county of Surry, who lay in a Trance forty-eight Hours.

To which is added,

A SERMON praached at the intended Funeral from 2d Tim. iv. 7. I have fought a good fight, I have finiſhed my Courſe, I have kept the faith.

ALSO,

The SERMON which he preached himſelf the Sunday after he came out of the Trance to thoſe that were invited to his Funeral, *viz.* JOHN xi. 15. *I am the Reſurrection and the Life, ſaith the Lord. He that believeth in me, tho' he be dead, yet ſhall he live; and whoſoever liveth and believeth in me, ſhall never die.*

Licenſed and Enter'd according to Order.

The SURRY WONDER, &c.

AT Rygate, in the county of Surry, lived one Mr. Henry Watts, formerly a Miniſter of that place, being a very worthy and devout gentleman, taking every week extroadinary pains in inſtructing his Pariſhoners, going from houſe to houſe to compleat and confirm them in their chriſtian faith and principles; and where he found any in great neceſſity he would not only relieve them to the utmoſt of his Ability but would promote and put forwards weekly contributions, often preaching upon the chriſtian and divine ſubject of charity; and indeed he was the wonder of thoſe parts, by his often putting in practice that heavenly duty: And theſe good offices he has from time to time performed during his reſidence as miniſter, at the place aforeſaid, which has been near 12 Years. But however, to the grief of his pariſhioners, eſpecially the pooreſt ſort, he was on the firſt of laſt month taken very ill of a fever and ague, which after two or three days ſeemed to abate its violence, but on the fifth of the ſaid month, the diſtemper began to renew its ſtrength, and that ſo violently, that his recovery was deſpaired of, ſo that ſeveral of his friends and relations, as alſo ſome eminent divines, were ſent for, who earneſtly pray'd with him till about eight o' Clock

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o'Clock the ſame morning, when on a ſudden ſeeing him lie without motion, they approached his bedſide, and found his Body breathleſs, and in a manner cold and ſtiff: Upon which his friends ordered and prepared all Things neceſſary for his funeral, which was appointed to be the Sunday following, his ſuppoſed Death, which was on Friday, being in his Coffin all that time, without any appearance of Life or Breath; nay, ſeemingly ſo far from it, that he was really cold. Sunday being come, one Dr. Lewis was made choice of to preach the funeral Sermon, the ſubſtance of which is as follows.

The SERMON.

2 TIM. iv. 7.

I have fought a good Fight, and have finiſhed my Courſe

Beloved Friends, and fellow Chriſtians,

I Have no need to give you the Character of our departed Brother and fellow labourer, in the lord, his parts, piety, charity, and goodneſs were ſufficiently known to all of you; the bleſſed effects of which, no doubt, but by this time through the merits of our Saviour, make him to ſhine among the elect in the Kingdom of God. He, when living among us, was a lively Pattern and emblem to imitate; his Sickneſs and extraordinary patience under it, conſidering its Violence, may learn us to be harmleſs and ſubmiſſive under all Afflictions: His daily conſidering how

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ſweet and eaſy God had made it to him, may alſo give us matter of Comfort and Conſolation, againſt that dreadful and terrible moment of our own, provided we trace him in all the godly performances of his holy Life and Converſation; which that we may all do, God of his infinite mercy and goodneſs enable us with his Grace, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, to whom with the Father and the holy Spirit, be all honour, glory, praiſe, power, and dominion, now and forevermore. *Amen.*

Dr. Lewis the Miniſter, had no ſooner ended the Sermon, and deſcended towards the Grave in order to perform the uſual ceremonies, but to his, and other Peoples great ſurprize, a noiſe of groaning and ſtruggling was heard in the Coffin, juſt as they were putting it into the Ground; whereupon, by Dr. Lewis's order, the Coffin was open'd, when to all the Spectators aſtoniſhment, the ſuppoſed dead Corpſe held up his Hand, and offered to riſe up, bidding them not be afraid, but ſpoke very faintly. However being put into a warm bed, and having ſome comfortable things given him, by degrees received and recovered his former Senſes, and being asked how he did? He ſaid very well, and able to deliver what had been revealed to him. After he had ordered ſome bolſters and pillows to be brought to ſupport him, being weak, he deſired to ſit up in his Bed and lean on them. I have been a long Journey, where

I have had many extraordinary ſecrets made known to me, ſome of which I am not to reveal, but this much I have a commiſſion for, *viz.* As ſoon as my ſoul was ſeperated from this lump of earth, all my ſins were expoſed before me, ſeeming engraved as on a marble table in crimſon letters, which very much aſtoniſhed me; the ſcroll was very large, every title of them being freſh in my memory, it cauſed me almoſt to deſpair: When at that very inſtant an angel preſented me with a white and pleaſant roll, in which all my good acts were written in letters of ſhining gold, as alſo my holy prayers and charitable practices, which ſhined above all the reſt more gloriouſly, ſo that a great and heavenly joy ſeized my ſoul: So waiting and expecting my ſentence, I ſuddenly was bid to return again to the body I had left, in order to warn and perſuade preſumptuous ſinners to forſake their ſins and put on the happy and white raiment of Chriſt Jeſus. But oh my friends, I cannot expreſs the bitter loathing and hateful difficulties, with which I re-entered this ſo foul and abominable carcaſe. Upon which Mrs Welby, being his own ſiſter, aſked him, if he could give any certain teſtimony, for human ſatisfaction of ois being in another world? he replied, yes, dear ſiſter, I can, and thereupon deſired to ſpeak with her in private, at which time he told her many ſecret ſins which ſhe had been guilty of, inſomuch that the remembrance thereof cauſed

ſed her to weep bitterly, and afterwards glorified God, confeſſed that they were ſuch ſecret ſins as ſhe was ſure that none but God and herſelf, till then, ever had any knowledge of. Upon the rumour of this ſtrange and remarkable providence many wicked and ungodly perſons reſorted to him, only by way of deriſion to try whether he could reveal theſe ſins or not, who no ſooner approached his preſence, but they were immediately told many of their ſecret and notorious ſins, to their extraordinary amazement and wonder; and not only ſo, but to the happy converſion and conviction of many, who perhaps without this uncommon and ſupernatural method, had ſtill continued deſerved vaſſals of God's wrath and vengeance; though now remain, bleſſed be God, hopeful objects of the favour and mercy of the almighty, which is chiefly owing to this ſtrange and wonderful diſpenſation. He having recovered his ſtrength; the next ſunday he gave notice to thoſe that were at his intended funeral, to whom he preached the following moſt excellent Diſcourſe.

The SERMON.

JOHN xi. 25.

I am the Reſurrection and the Life, ſaith the Lord: He that believeth in me, though he be dead, yet ſhall he live; and whoſoever liveth and believeth in me, ſhall never die.

THESE Words of our Saviour were ſpoken in anſwer to Martha, who ſeemed to doubt of the literal meaning and ſignification

thereof; for it was when Lazerous had been dead 4 days; nay, ſhe was ſo far grounded in her human opinion that ſhe thought it impoſſible for Chriſt to raiſe him again, as appeared by her repeated arguments or contradictions, ſaying, my lord by this time he ſtinketh, for he hath been dead theſe 4 days. But ſaith our ſaviour, Verſe the 40th. Said I not unto thee, if thou wouldeſt believe, thou ſhall ſee the glory of God. Indeed Mary ſeemed, verſe 22d, to be of opinion that if Chriſt had been with Lazerous in the time of his ſickneſs he might have preſerved him alive; but being dead ſhe with Martha concluded it unneceſſary to hope for his reſurrection. You may read the whole chapter at your leiſure, and obſerve how miraculouſly Lazerous was raiſed to life after he had been dead 4 days. Beloved God's arm is not ſhortened, his power is not leſſened, that wonderful and ſtrange miracle was to convince obſtinate and perverſe unbelievers. I am in great hopes this unſpeakable providence vouchſafed to me, was appointed for ſome great end, in order to reſtrain ſuch wilful and ſtubborn ſinners, as would no other way be wrought upon; however by this his eminent diſpenſation we may, as in a glaſs view the unbounded and unlimited works of God, who ſent me back again upon a great and mighty errand and that in a great and extraordinary manner, thereby to make his power and greatneſs unqueſtionable, and that vain and impious Men may have no matter of argument to withſtand the truth of the goſpel. I am heartily glad that I am accounted worthy to bear teſtimony to you all, of the exceeding goodneſs, as well as infinite power of our creator: And I alſo rejoice in this that my return has or at leaſt will, not only be a means to ſtrengthen your faith, but to confirm and ſupport it, and that under the greateſt difficulties that any human diſaſter, can occaſion.

ſion. I have many other things more to add, but being ſomething faint, by reaſon of my indiſpoſition I ſhall therefore refer the farther proſecution of this ſubject to the next opportunity God is pleaſed to afford me: to whoſe Protection I earneſtly recommend you all. *Amen.*

A PRAYER.

O Great and heavenly Lord God, I humbly thank thee for thy great and wonderful Care thou ſhoweſt thy Church on earth, by many extraordinary Inſtances of thy Providence more eſpecially this thy great and mighty miraculous diſpenſation vouchſafed unto me, O Lord thy goodneſs as well as mighty power is unſpeakable for the good and welfare of thy people, if we could obſerve it, and be truly thankful. Lord I beſeech thee now enlighten the underſtandings of this little flock which thou haſt given me in charge, in order to make ſuitable improvements of this and of all thy great Goodneſs towards them, both theſe and all the other mercies given to us, and all other Churches in a more divine and gracious Manner than we can aſk or think, and all for thy Son's ſake Chriſt Jeſus our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

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FINIS.